[22nd March 1921

Silk industry in the Presidency.

456 Q.—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(*a*) in what places in this Presidency the silk industry is carried on;

(*b*) in what condition it is in this country; and

(*c*) whether there is any scope for its development.

A.—The honourable member is referred to Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy's Report on the Silk Industry in India published by the Government of India in the year 1919 and Appendix G to the Report of the Indian Industrial Commission.

Spinning wheel in rural areas of Gōdāvari, Kistna, etc.

457 Q.—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a good deal of stimulus has been given for the use of the spinning wheel in the rural areas in the districts of Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr within the last two years;

(*b*) whether this stimulation has brought about any excess of yarn and, if so, to what extent;

(*c*) whether the Government have in any way helped the extensive use of the spinning wheel;

(*d*) whether the spinning wheel that is used is of the old crude type;

(*e*) whether any attempts have been made by the Department of Industries to import improved hand spinning wheels, if any, from other parts of India; and

(*f*) if not, whether any steps will be taken to improve the existing hand spinning wheels.

A.—(*a*) Owing to the high prices of yarn last year a small number of women appear to have resumed the use of old spinning wheel in the districts of Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr.

(*b*) The Government have no information on the subject. The Government would need a special staff to make such inquiries and the information, if obtained, would be unreliable and serve no useful purpose.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) No. The Government are advised that hand-spun yarn is unlikely for any length of time to compete successfully with mill-spun yarn.

Indigo industry in the Presidency.

458 Q.—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(*a*) in what condition the indigo industry is in this Presidency;

(*b*) whether any steps have been taken to improve the method of getting the dye-stuff so as to compete successfully with the synthetic indigo;

(*c*) whether the recently published bulletin on indigo research by the Pusa Agricultural Institute containing the results of experiments by the Rev. A. Davis, the Indigo Research Chemist to the Government of India, has been perused by the Ministry; and

(*d*) if so, whether any attempts will be made to try those experiments in this country.

22nd March 1921]

A.—(*a*) The honourable member is referred to Dr. Marsden's report recorded in G.O. No. 459, Home (Education), dated 9th April 1918, which was placed on the Editors' table.

(*b*) No such steps were regarded by the Director of Agriculture as immediately possible and none have been taken by the Government.

(*c*) It is presumed that the honourable member refers to "Indigo Publication No. 8" containing a note by Mr. W. A. Davis on the development of the indigo industry in Assam in conjunction with tea and other crops. The attention of the Government has been drawn to this very recent publication

(*d*) The Government are unable to say.

Women's hospital in Masulipatam.

459 *Q.*—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Council of Masulipatam contemplates abolishing the only women's hospital in the town on the plea of want of funds; and

(*b*) whether steps will be taken to prevent this action on the part of the municipality.

A.—The Municipal Council of Masulipatam does not maintain any hospital for women.

Extension of village-sites in zamindaris in Gōdāvari, etc.

460 *Q.*—Sri M. V. Apparao Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether any steps will be taken for the extension of village-sites in zamindari villages in the Gōdāvari and Kistna districts to relieve congestion and improve rural sanitation.

A.—In zamindari villages the duty of providing adequate house-sites rests primarily on the zamindar and the Government have laid down that they do not ordinarily recognize any obligation to provide village-sites in permanently-settled villages. They will however consider the question if definite proposals are received.

Deputation of the Oriya District Association on the Agency Commissioner.

461 *Q.*—Sriman Biswanath Das: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member if it is a fact that the Oriya District Association of Ganjām waited on a deputation on the Agency Commissioner in September 1920 or thereabouts and to state what action has been taken thereon up to now.

A.—The Government have no information.

Sriman Biswanath Das:—"I would like to know, Sir, how the Government could not have any information on the point when a public body like the Oriya District Association of Ganjām waited on a deputation on the Agency Commissioner and when some of the extracts appeared in the local newspapers."

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson:—"The answer to the supplementary question is that the Government do not, as a matter of course, receive official information about everything that happens in a district. The answer to the question on the paper was drafted while I was away at Delhi. If I had been present at the time, I should have said that it was a matter within my personal knowledge, not my knowledge as a member of Government, that a deputation had waited on Mr. Harris. I have now in my hand a letter which has just been received from him, giving some particulars of what